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(*b*) whether the two women doctors have been found not competent to be in charge of the maternity ward; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to appoint for this hospital as honorary surgeon a woman instead of a man as soon as a qualified woman is available?

*A.*—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The women doctors are competent and attend to labour cases including the application of forceps. The Honorary Surgeon is however a specialist in midwifery with English qualifications.

(*c*) No.

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal before the Government to appoint as honorary surgeon a woman doctor instead of a man, as soon as possible, as the Government must be aware of the difficulties experienced by Gosha ladies on account of a man being put in charge of the maternity ward? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" There is no proposal to appoint a honorary lady doctor, because none are available. Besides, there are two Government lady doctors in the hospital."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—" But they are not put in charge of the maternity ward, while the male doctor is put in charge? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" No, Sir; they are really doing the work. Because we obtained a male honorary doctor, we appointed him as honorary surgeon."

## Agriculture

*Survey of rice trade in the Presidency.*

* 606 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any officer has been appointed for making a survey of the rice trade in this Presidency?

*A.*—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given to question No. 541 asked by Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari. Orders sanctioning the appointment of an officer will issue soon.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, the points which the officer will be called upon to investigate? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" He will be asked to collect statistics in regard chiefly to the trade in rice and paddy."